

CARGO PREPARATION

The following is some information on cargo preparation. By following these suggestions you can reduce the chances of lost, stolen, or damaged cargo. Any knowledgeable, experienced donors wishing to add to this information or volunteer to assist others with the methods of the shipping process may contact the Denton Program Officer at (703) 741-0563.

Water Damage Protection

While waiting for space to become available for transport and while enroute to the loading ramps, cargo is often exposed to the natural elements. Because of these circumstances, every precaution possible should be made to protect cargo from water damage.

- Place items in a plastic bag before putting them in a box.
- Use moisture absorbent materials in conjunction with waterproof barrier wrapping when packing moisture sensitive items.
- Use shrink wrap, stretch wrap or plastic shrouds on unit and pallet loads.
- Use waxed cardboard pieces to protect items.
- Place pallet cover on pallet, folding and heat sealing it at the top.
- Put labels and packing lists in small plastic covers. These label covers may be obtained free from your local postal service.

Protection from Loss and Theft

Cargo shipped through the Denton Program is delivered to developing countries. In many of these countries items deemed to be of little value in the United States are actually considered very valuable. For this reason theft is very common; however taking a few simple precautions can dramatically reduce the chance of both theft and loss.

- **INSIST UPON PROMPT PICKUP AND DELIVERY OF YOUR CARGO!** This is very important because the longer your cargo sits around in the open, the more tempting it will be for those passing by to “help themselves.” Be sure to contact your consignee as soon as you are aware of the delivery date.
- Avoid sending items that may be considered a status symbol if possible. For example, if you have a choice between sending a 1987 Mercedes and a 1987 Ford which is in just as good working condition, send the Ford.

- Label, Label, Label! Use indelible inks and waterproof labels to mark at least three sides of each box or item with the address of the donor, the address of the consignee and the TCN#. If possible, do labels in both English and the language of the destination country.
- Packing Lists. Each box should have a detailed inventory of contents. This will help the consignee account for everything, as well as helping those bringing the cargo through customs in the destination country and any other country it may pass through while enroute.
- Unitize, Palletize, and Containerize. This will minimize manual handling, thus reducing chances of theft and loss.

Preparing Cargo for the Toughest Part of the Journey

From the time your cargo leaves your warehouse or place of storage, to the time it reaches its absolute final destination (the beneficiaries), your cargo will go through some tough handling. Please keep in mind its journey when packing. The following are some different stages your cargo may go through:

- Truck or rail transport to terminal.
- Handling in terminals.
- Stowing in aircraft or on ship.
- Flight or sea transport.
- Unloading aircraft or ship.
- Transfer to terminals.
- Handling by customs' officials in destination country and other countries along the way.
- Truck transport by consignee from military base to storage and from storage to beneficiaries.

Cargo Should be Packed to Withstand...

- Stacking of up to 8 feet high.
- Pressure from adjacent cargo.
- Crushing action from tie-down straps.
- Manual handling.
- Exposure to elements.